

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,
As a citizen who wants to be informed about the political and electoral issues that affect my life, I am greatly disappointed by the lack of informative television programming.

In this important election year, broadcasters are simply repeating whatever is said by candidates, without checking any facts and refuting any false stories or election commercials. This is a real disappointment to those of us who would like to know if a particular candidate is being truthful with his/her statements.

In addition, local public affairs programming is virtually non-existent. Our democracy is at risk when many Americans don't know basic facts about the candidates or the issues, as was the case in the 2000 elections.

Since broadcasters have clearly failed in their obligation to serve the public interest, the FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming.

The cable news channels are not much better in this regard; they have more national coverage, but less actual content, and basically no reporting of misrepresented facts.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us.

Sincerely,

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